FFA LEADERSHIP FOR AMERICA

South Carolina's

Young Farmer & FFA

Magazine

SUPPORT AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Vol.44 No.4 25 cents July/August 1994

001 01406 1
FRANK R. STOVER
BOX 52
PELION, SC 29123

The Official Publication of the Young Farmers & FFA of South Carolina

South Carolina's
Young Farmer & FFA
Magazine

The South Carolina Young Farmer and FFA Magazine (ISSN-0038-3201) is published bi-monthly by the South Carolina Young Farmer and South Carolina Future Farmer associations, 922 Rutledge Building, Columbia, S.C. 29201. Subscription price is 25 cents per year for members and 50 cents per year for non-members.

Second class postage paid at Columbia, S.C.

July/August 1994 VOL.#44/NO.4
(ISSN: 0038-3201)

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On the Cover: (L-R) State Commissioner of Agriculture D. Leslie Tindal, Jack Mace of Stoneville Seed Company, and Saluda County Extension Agent Phil Perry visit the BXN cotton test site near ridge Spring, SC.

Notes from the State Advisor

By Dr. Dale A. Law

Dr. Dale A. Law

Approximately 300 South Carolina FFA members and advisors will join more than 32,000 FFA members, advisors, supporters and guests who are expected to attend the 67th National FFA Convention November 10-12 in Kansas City, Missouri.

This meeting is the nation's largest annual student gathering and is the culmination of a year's activities for FFA members. Delegates will discuss topics affecting the national organization and hear educational and motivational speakers. Exceptional FFA members and supporters will be recognized for their achievements and commitment to the organization.

The National FFA Organization will recognize outstanding members in 29 agricultural proficiency areas in 17 agricultural skill and leadership competitions. More than 1,400 members will receive the American FFA Degree, the organization's highest degree. Two of the American FFA Degree recipients will be named American Star Farmer and American Star in Agribusiness. In addition, chapters will receive recognition for excellence in safety, community development and chapter activities. Winners in the Agriscience Teacher of the Year award program will be named.

National finals competitions for the Prepared and Extemporaneous Public Speaking contests, Parliamentary Procedure contest, Agriscience Student Recognition program, the Ag Issues Forum and the Marketing Plan Project will be held in the "finals hall" of the new conference center between the auditorium and exhibit halls. The final sessions will be held concurrently with Thursday and Friday daytime convention sessions.

Business and industry supporters of the FFA are represented at the convention through the National FFA Foundation. The 1994 Sponsors' Board Chairman is Ron Davis, president and chief executive officer, Biggs/Gilmore Communications.

Olympic gold medalists Florence and Al Joyner will speak during the reflections programs on Wednesday afternoon and evening prior to the start of the convention. Their appearance is sponsored by the Firestone Ag Tire Division and Bridgestone/Firestone TRUST FUND, a charitable trust of Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc., in celebration of 50 years' support of the National FFA Foundation.

Speakers confirmed for the convention include former Apple MacIntosh computer guru Guy Kawasaki; former Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture Cotton Ivy; motivational speaker Craig Karges; and founder of the Family AIDS Network Mary Fisher. Ivy will be sponsored by the Western Retail Implement and Hardware Association as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

The 1993-1994 National FFA Officers will direct the week's activities. They are Curtis C. Childers, national president, Glen Rose, Texas; Andrew McCrea, national secretary, Maysville, MO; Raquel Lacey, central region vice president, Nokomis, IL; Tyler Grandil, western region vice president, Gilbert, AZ; Liam Brody, eastern region vice president, Greenville, NY; and Steven Mitchell, southern region vice president, Pineville, AR.

"FFA-The Leadership Advantage" is the theme for the 1994 convention and reflects the organization's underlying purpose of developing enthusiastic leaders for America and the agricultural industry. It also captures the spirit that stimulated local and state leaders to increase FFA membership for the third year in a row.

The National FFA Alumni Convention and the FFA National Agricultural Career Show are scheduled in conjunction with the FFA convention. They will be held in the recently enlarged H. Roe Bartle Hall, located adjacent to the Municipal Auditorium.

FFA was founded in Kansas City in 1928 at the Baltimore Hotel, only a few blocks from the current convention site.

FFA is a national organization of 427,415 members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture. FFA's mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

And now... A Word from the President

This year your State Officer Team has set a number of goals and we are going to need your help, as members, to accomplish them. When we were elected, we were elected by you to work for you. Therefore, any ideas or suggestions you may have will certainly be welcomed by this team.

This year we are going to begin a monthly newsletter which will list goals we have set, upcoming events, district news, and things accomplished. A reporter from each district will be appointed by Grier Sandifer, State Reporter and Editor of the newsletter. As of yet, we have not named the newsletter. If you have any suggestions, please submit them to one of the state officers. If your title should be chosen, you will have a picture and a small article about you placed in the first issue of the newsletter.

As you all know, our organization has suffered a tremendous loss in membership. It is up to you and I to do all that we possibly can to ensure the welfare of FFA in South Carolina. One way of doing that is to attend and participate in every activity you possibly can. With active participation from members, we will be able to portray a positive image of what the FFA is and what FFA stands for.

I impress upon you that the FFA is your organization and will only be as good as you make it. Therefore, I issue a challenge to you: Do everything within your power to ensure the growth of this organization and what it stands for. Without agricultural education and the FFA, this nation, along with this world, would starve!

Agriscience and Technology

The effects of recent technological advances, such as the development of the BST hormone that can boost a dairy cow's milk production by 20%, will be felt in all areas of agricultural industries.

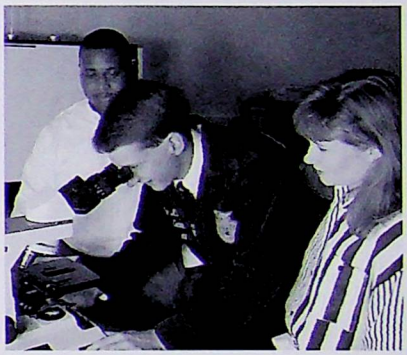
Since one of the earliest controls of a crop damaging pest was successfully carried out in 1887, the areas of agriscience and ag technology have progressed at an amazing rate. It is no secret that throughout history, agriculturalists have had to contend with rodents and insects that take our food; bacteria and fungi that cause the early demise of food in the fields and in storage; and bites from fleas, ticks, and other insects that cause irritation and spread sicknesses in both humans and animals.

Labwork is the backbone of progress in the fields of agriscience and technology.

However, in recent years the development and introduction of genetic, cultural and biological controls have effectively limited the amount of damage from insects, fungi, bacteria, and other pests and have allowed our population to thrive at present day levels. Such advances in technology include, but are by far not limited to, the mechanization of agriculture, discoveries in plant and animal genetics, the creation and production of synthetic fertilizers, and the development of chemical pesticides.

Because of the ever changing world of agriculture, the field of agriscience is continually changing as well and offers countless career opportunities. Plants and insects develop resistances to controls; farmers can often experience a resurgence of pests after the use of some pest control techniques (because their predators may be exterminated as well, allowing for quicker recovery by the pest than by the predator); secondary pests may surface upon eradication of the primary pest; and ever developing environmental restrictions on pesticides make for a constant challenge in the search for new techniques in agriculture.

In this issue, you will see some of the most recent advances in agriscience and technology and how they affect the agricultural community today.



Past FFA State Secretary Lee Mayfield (c) and other Clemson University ag students record laboratory findings in order to accurately track the results of an experiment.

FYI

Genetic Control - Plants can be selected and/or bred to be resistant to certain insects, diseases, and/or insecticides. Insects can be bred and cross-bred to cause infertility and/or sterility.

Cultural Control - Cultural pest control refers to the use of planting, cultivation, pruning, fertilization, and other plant management processes to manage pest populations and damage.

Biological Control - Biological control of pests of plants, animals, and people includes the use of one living plant or animal to control another unwanted plant or animal.

1994 FFA Camping Program A Success

The flag raising ceremony announced the opening of the FFA Camp and kicked off each day's activities.

Latta High School FFA members work to identify key chapter goals during this morning session at the FFA Leadership Camp.

For some, the week after the State FFA Convention in Clemson was a time to relax, catch up on sleep, get back to work on SAE programs, and begin mapping out activities for the rest of the summer. But for quite a few others, the dawning of that following Monday morning found them already on the road again as they traveled to Cherry Grove, South Carolina for the opening session of FFA's annual summer camp.

In all, approximately 118 people attended the first session, held June 13th-17th, which focused on an Environmental and Natural Resources theme. Manning, Lake View, Union, and Aiken were just some of the 14 different FFA chapters represented during that week. Taking part in a variety of scheduled activities, the campers participated in indoor/outdoor recreational activities, cook-outs, off-site tours and more.

In addition to chaperoning his FFA members to this session, Cleveland Jackson, Advisor at the Union County Vocational Center, invited their Project Pals group to the camp as well where they had the opportunity to visit the beach, fish, go crabbing, swim, play putt-putt and visit the ever famous Myrtle Beach Pavilion!

Three other theme weeks were also organized for the summer, including the FFA Chapter Leadership Conference (June 21-24), Agricultural Science and Technology (June 27-July 1), and Outdoor Recreation (July 4-8).

For those returning to the camp for the second or third time, a few changes were very apparent. Since the beginning of the year, the Cherry Grove Task Force appointed by the FFA Advisory Council had been hard at work reviewing various aspects of the camping program and implementing changes to make the experience more effective and beneficial to its visitors. Perhaps most noticeable was the presence of a Program Director and five camp counselors. This newly hired staff provided valuable "camping" experience and guidance in organizing activities for each week. Through the designation of theme weeks, specific activities were planned to enhance the **education** of FFA members in various areas of agriculture. In addition, to further promote **teamwork**, campers from each chapter were assigned to different cabins with an advisor, and team activities were conducted by cabin, instead of by chapter. Other changes implemented included the increased use of the swimming pool, the showing of movies after dark in the dining hall, and the addition of an air-conditioned advisor's lounge.

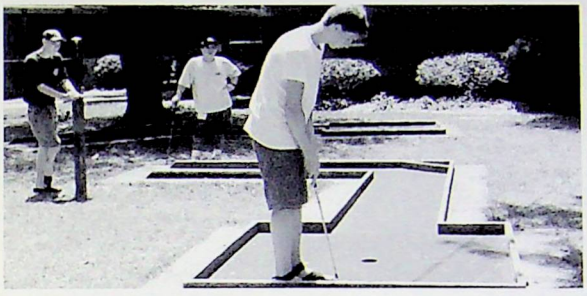
Always one of the largest gatherings at the camp, the FFA Leadership Conference, held during the second week of camp, provided the opportunity for chapter officers to focus on personal leadership skills, develop chapter and state FFA activities and goals, and review the duties of chapter officers.

Speaking to the group at one of the sessions on the importance of setting and reaching goals for the FFA association, McBee Advisor Pat Earle emphasized the need for designating a program of activities, group organization, and brainstorming ideas to get started.

FFA Advisor Drefus Williams conducts an instructional workshop on chapter safety programs.

This surprise ending to the "pick-up line" game floored more than a few volunteers during a mid-morning break between leadership sessions.

State FFA Vice Presidents Chad Warren and Carrie Nixon joined the rest of the state officers team in coordinating camp week activities.



Morgan Ard and Terry Rogers of Manning and Ted Roscoe of Cheraw spend their free time playing putt-putt on the camp course.

port for BOAC projects:

1) Organize -Plan, plan, and plan some more!
2) Publicize -Spread the news of your projects and activities to every available outlet!
3) Recognize -Always remember to thank those whose efforts made your accomplishments possible.

Keels concluded by highlighting the Britton's Neck Chapter's community center and playground project as an example of a highly successful, award-winning BOAC project.

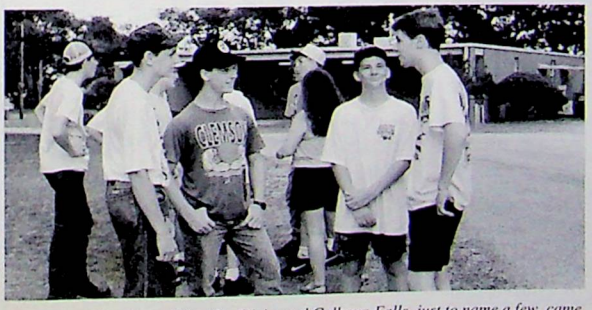
Ending the 1994 FFA Summer Camp program with the Agriscience & Technology and Outdoor Recreation weeks, it is obvious that the revitalized FFA camping program offers many new opportunities for both advisors and members to participate in educational, team building and recreational activities not available through other means. So, for those of you who were unable to participate this summer, start planning now for next year because it promises to be even more exciting and beneficial to the FFA than ever!

Members of your State Officers Team take time out to test their equestrian skills at a local shopping center.

Following Mr. Earle's presentation, guest speaker James Williams of the USDA Liaison Office (also a former FFA officer) reinforced the importance of identifying personal and chapter goals, and reviewed the use of county agencies and people as accessible resources to plan careers in agriculture. He finished by supplying the officers with a valuable list of USDA agencies to turn to for FFA support.

Closing the morning's discussions, Furman-Manchester Advisor Drefus Williams and Hillcrest (Dalzell) Advisor Billy Keels reevaluated chapter BOAC and safety awards programs. Williams urged the chapters to look to current events for themes for their safety projects and to become more active participants in that awards program. Keels outlined three components vital to enlisting community sup-

Blake Green, an FFA PAL from Union Middle School, nets a live crab in the waterway at the FFA Camp in Cherry Grove, SC.



Chapter members from Abbeville, Dixie, and Calhoun Falls, just to name a few, came to Cherry Grove during the opening week of FFA summer camp.

The marine biology wildlife program at Myrtle Beach State Park offered a firsthand look at aquatic life.

Where Are They Now?

For those of you who may have noticed some familiar faces on the FFA circuit lately, here are the names to match. These past state officers have kept busy on both the state and national FFA level beyond the end of their terms, and have recently been spotted around the state as they continue to support their organization.

Patrick Stone
1992-1993 State President- Clemson Student. FFA Camp Counselor - Summer 1994.

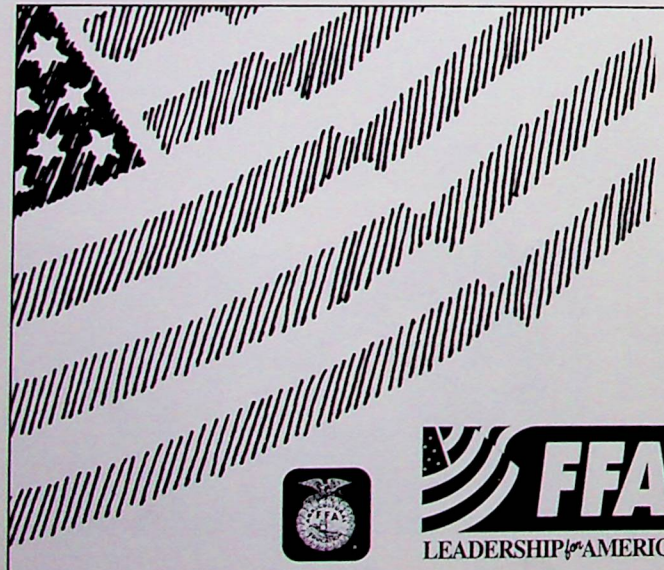
Henry Poole
1992-1993 State Vice - President - Clemson Student. FFA Camp Counselor - Summer 1994.

Will Harman
1991-1992 State President- Recent Clemson Graduate (Spring '94) - Visitor to state convention at Clemson in June. Attending Medical School at USC in the Fall.

Lee Mayfield
1991-1992 State Secretary- Clemson graduate. Employed by National FFA Organization in the Made For Excellence Program Visitor to state convention at Clemson in June.

Lee Barrett
1990-1991 State Vice-President- State FFA Convention Coordinator - June 1994. Agricultural Education Advisory Committee 1993-1994.

For more information on how you can continue your involvement with the FFA, speak to your advisor.



FFA Develops

★ Premier Leadership
★ Personal Growth
★ Carrer Success

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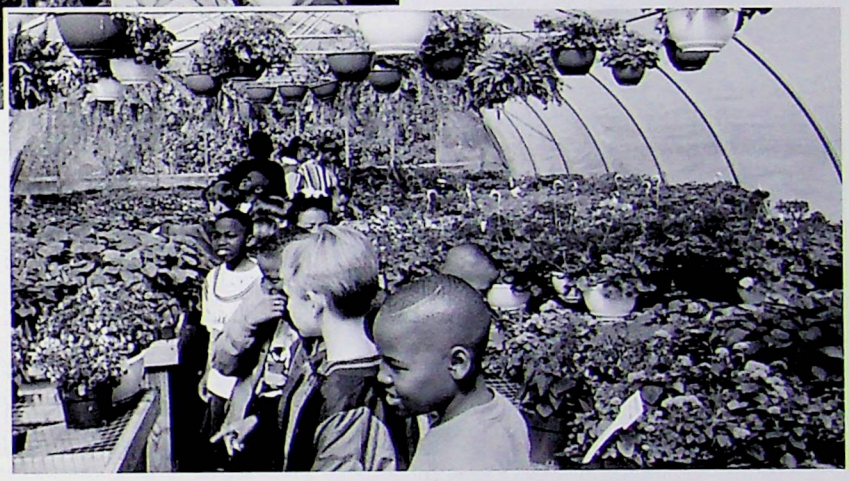
FFA Chapter Leads Children In Right Direction

North Aiken Elementary School fourth graders receive some hands-on training in transplanting marigold and tomato plants from Aiken High FFA members.

The Aiken High greenhouse held many different plant varieties for these elementary students to view.



A famous philosopher once said,

"The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future life."

That being the case, the fourth grade students from North Aiken Elementary School took their first steps toward the area of agriscience and technology during an end-of-the-school-year field trip to visit the FFA chapter at Aiken High School.

During the "invasion of the fourth graders" (as Advisor Joe Wilson jokingly referred to it), elementary students toured the greenhouse, the catfish pond, the aquariums, and the lab to see agriculture in action.

After the tour, each of the fourth graders were then given their own marigold and tomato plants to transplant with the assistance of the FFA students.

Returning to the elementary school later that afternoon with a little bit of dirt under their nails, these fourth graders also took with them new experiences to add to their educations - and their futures.

It was standing room only around these aquariums in the FFA lab during this part of the elementary school tour.

Colleton-Bamberg Young Farm

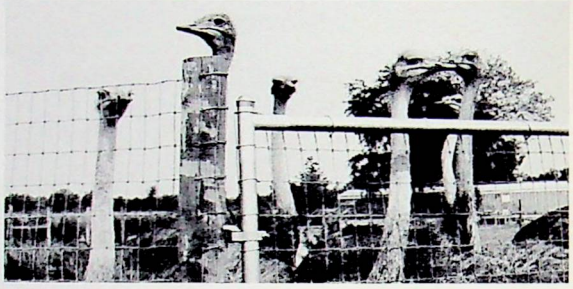
In true lowcountry style, visitors to the 1994 Young Farmers Summer Tour were welcomed by a healthy dose of summer heat and humidity as they arrived in Walterboro, SC for the event held July 29-30th. Nevertheless, spirits were high as the group consisting of approximately 90 young farmers, family members and friends from counties around the state turned out for a weekend of activities designed to highlight some of the types of agriculture and agricultural methods practiced in the lowcountry area.

After registering at the Holiday Inn in Walterboro on Friday afternoon, the group traveled to Westvaco's Bluff Trail where several guided tours of a cross section of lowcountry woodlands environments were offered. A picnic style barbecue followed after which everyone returned to the hotel to prepare for the next day's activities.

Early Saturday morning, as the sun began to burn off the heavy morning mist, the Summer Tour group boarded two chartered buses and began their day-long tour of several agricultural facilities located in and around Walterboro.

The first stop was at Williams Farms in Ashton, SC where Jimmy Williams operates one of the largest watermelon growing operations in the state. Visitors were able to view firsthand Williams' packing center with its two large refrigeration units and sample his variety of seedless watermelons. These watermelons, (known as triploids) were genetically engineered to have 1-1/2 times as many chromosomes as a regular watermelon. Therefore, the seeds within (yes, there are actually some small white seeds inside!) remain in something of an "embryonic" stage and are not as fully developed as the larger, black seeds most are accustomed to.

This irrigation machine is used daily to water and fertilize the melon crops. Subsequent leaf analysis provides clues as to the nutrients needed.



By the time they reach maturity, these birds have reached heights of 7'-8' tall.

Young Farmers assemble at Williams Farms in Walterboro, one of the largest watermelon growing operations in the state, early Saturday morning.

Ronald Myers (r) of Bamberg slices samples of a fresh, seedless watermelon for Summer Tour members to sample.

Marion Barnes, of the Colleton County Extension Service, led the group through the fields and explained the drip irrigation (or fertigation) method that they use as well as the multiple uses and advantages of black plastic as mulch for the crops. Barnes detailed their extensive efforts to continue to diversify Williams' crops, "Because Mr. Williams realized that using drip irrigation was a big investment for just one crop, we have been working on cultivating two crops per acre." In addition to watermelons, the farm is also producing tomatoes, cantaloupes, cucumbers, and cabbage, and they are still trying to determine the ideal crop to follow watermelons. (As if all of this should not keep Mr. Williams and his staff busy enough, they also run a commercial hog operation!)

The next stop on the schedule was in Lodge, SC at Thomas Farms, an ostrich and emu breeding facility. One of the newer and more unique alternatives in agriculture, this farm was quite a curiosity to tour members not familiar with these large birds! When farm owner Hal Thomas inherited the farm from his father several years ago, he searched for a way to keep his farm productive, make money, pay taxes, and have fun. Looking into some new agricultural alternatives, Thomas settled on ostriches, and after traveling out of the country to visit some successful facilities, he returned to South Carolina and initiated his own operation.

Thomas hired Steve McMillan as Farm Manager (currently the president of the Colleton-Bamberg Young Farmers Association) and employed a local high school student Richard Moore to work as well. As a commodity, ostrich feathers have long been used in the costuming business, and ostrich leather in the acces-

ers Host Annual Summer Tour

sories industry for boots, handbags, and belts. Ostrich meat is also gaining in popularity in different parts of the country because it is low in both fat and cholesterol.

McMillan further explained that since ostriches hatch out in summer and emus in winter, an almost year 'round breeding operation is possible. Since the cost of feeding these birds is minimal (about $ 1.00 a day) and the average sale price is around $ 3,000 for a young pair of birds or $ 12,000 for a grown pair, this business can be quite profitable. Having only been in this operation for a year, Thomas Farms had already sold 16 emus raised out of 17 eggs laid.

Although they can tolerate extremes in climate, these birds are definitely water lovers, especially in the summertime!

Thomas also enlisted the aid of current technology in order to track their progress. He purchased a computer system on which they log medical records, production records, weight loss percentages, and fertility rates. In addition, he invested in some of the most current, state-of-the-art incubators and hatchers to keep the eggs developing at perfect temperatures throughout each stage of development. Obviously, this type of farming gets down to exact science!

From there the group traveled to the DeKalb Plant Genetics Corn Test Plot in Ehrhardt to view several new strains of corn in development. The plot, consisting of 21,500 plants per acre, was planted on a stretch of Wingard Copeland's farm at the end of March and most all of the stalks had produced very well, particularly with the help of a consistent period of rain that moved in to the area right at tassel time. Doug Roberts, DeKalb District Sales Manager in Walterboro, explained how they used the technique of alternating hybrids in every other strip so that there comparisons of the test plots would line up directly with their comparisons of the hybrids.

Doug Roberts, District Sales Manager for DeKalb, reviews some of the results of the Corn Test Plot near Ehrhardt.

Taking time out for lunch, the tour progressed a few miles away to Randy Cockrell's farm in Ehrhardt where the Young Farmer chapter arranged a barbecue lunch. Joining the entourage at Cockrell Farms was State Commissioner of Agriculture Les Tindal who congratulated the young farmers on their accomplishments and urged them to utilize the Department of Agriculture for any assistance.

After Mr. Tindal spoke, Steve McMillan thanked the Clemson University Extension Office and all other sponsors of the event for their ongoing support of the association. A raffle was held to raise money to support efforts to have the national tour brought to South Carolina and guests were then shown Cockrell's new hog operation.

Les Tindal, State Commissioner of Agriculture, speaks to the Young Farmer tour group at Randy Cockrell's hog farm in Ehrhardt, SC.

Finally, the last stop on the agenda was a part educational, part recreational visit to the newly restored Bonnie Doone Plantation in Walterboro. Back in the days when rice was big business in the South, Bonnie Doone was an extremely successful and very profitable rice plantation. Currently, restorations are still in progress and it is open to the public for tours and as a Christian Conference Retreat.

As though it held off until the completion of the tour, the rain began to fall again as the Young Farmers held one last meeting inside the retreat cafeteria. State Young Farmer President Gene Forrest thanked chapter president Steve McMillan and chapter vice-president Richard Rentz for their hard work in organizing the event, and also thanked everyone who attended.

It's safe to say that, regardless of age or agricultural background, this tour provided the opportunity to meet new people, renew old friendships, have a good time and learn a little something new (or in some cases a lot!) about agriculture.

First Genetically-Engineered Cotton Makes Debut on South Carolina Farm

State Commissioner of Agriculture D. Leslie Tindal (l) and Jack Mace of Stoneville Pedigreed Seed Company inspect the new BXN strain of herbicide resistant cotton at the test plot in Ridge Spring, SC.

On Friday, July 15, 1994, Commissioner of Agriculture Les Tindal officially announced the South Carolina debut of the first genetically-engineered herbicide resistant cotton crop in the world.

At a news conference and tour that was held at the Stoneville Pedigreed Seed Company test site near Ridge Spring, SC, Tindal toured demonstration plots featuring the BXN system with Clemson University Weed Scientist, Dr. Ed Murdock, Jack Mace of Stoneville, Saluda County Extension Agent Phil Perry, and local cotton producers. In viewing the weed control trials, visitors were able to see the graphic demonstration of differences in weed control between various herbicide programs.

Currently being developed by Stoneville at several locations across the cotton belt including universities, cotton farms, and its Southeastern Research Station at Hartsville, BXN cotton varieties have been genetically altered for resistance to BUCTRIL GEL brand bromoxynil herbicide, which will control most of the major broadleaf weeds in South Carolina.

Tindal stated, "If BXN cotton works as it is projected in reducing broadleaf weeds, cotton farmers in the state will be able to produce cotton more efficiently and effectively while, at the same time, increasing their profit. With extensive research and technological advances and the successful Boll Weevil Eradication Program, cotton production is once again becoming one of South Carolina's major row crops. I am proud and pleased with the results, thus far, of BXN cotton."

The BXN system will allow cotton growers to control troublesome broadleaf weeds without the crop injury, maturity delays and other problems associated with herbicides that are currently available. Weed competition and the resulting losses in yields and fiber quality are estimated to cost cotton growers nationwide more than $600 million annually. Clemson University weed scientists estimate that South Carolina growers lose several million dollars per year to broadleaf weeds alone.

BUCTRIL is a broad-spectrum, post-emergence broadleaf herbicide that works on contact to rapidly control weeds. Since the herbicide is rapidly broken down in the soil, it poses no threat of carryover into following crops or of groundwater contamination. BUCTRIL GEL, the formulation that will registered for use on cotton, is a viscous gel in pre-measured, water-soluble packs that virtually eliminate exposure to the product during mixing and loading. Because the container becomes part of the spray solution, the user has no contaminated jugs or cans of which to dispose. BUCTRIL is manufactured and marketed by Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company of Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Rhone-Poulenc is the leading supplier of cotton protection products in the United States.

If you would like to obtain more information about the BXN system, please contact Becky Walton at the South Carolina Department of Agriculture at (803) 734-2182.

SCVATA Banquet Honors Outstanding Agricultural Educators

Looking back at their accomplishments and progress during the past year in ag ed, the South Carolina Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association came together for their annual awards banquet on July 26th at the Farm Bureau Building in Cayce, SC.

One of many activities scheduled during the 1994 SCVATA Convention held in Columbia that week, the banquet honored ag teachers from all areas of the state and awards were presented to those educators who devoted decades of teaching to ag ed as well as those who excelled in various areas of leadership and instruction.

The 1993-94 SCVATA officers team coordinated the honorary dinner, which opened with an invocation from Dan Poston and was followed by the introduction of the guest speaker, Dr. Charles Law. Dr. Law is a long time friend and educator of the agriculture community in the Carolinas and currently operates a tobacco farm in North Carolina. In a thought provoking speech to the group, Dr. Law reviewed the history and the current direction of ag ed in the South and urged them to re-evaluate and update their programs in order to apply the "saleable" theoretical and conceptual skills that are required more and more in the move to an increasingly information-aged educational model.

Also present at the banquet were representatives from Cherrydale Farms in Roebuck and Champion Marketing of Tallahassee, Florida. Both organizations were recognized for their efforts in coordinating fundraisers for ag ed groups around the state throughout the school year. Don Huckaba of Cherrydale Farms announced their recent authorization by the National FFA to design a candy bar for local fundraising. Jim Champion also spoke to the group about his fruit sale operation and presented a plaque to Billy Keels for his continuing support of their company in his school projects.

The high point of the evening arrived with the presentation of awards to outstanding ag teachers. Celebrating a retirement, McKever Hemingway was congratulated for 40 years in agricultural education and was presented with a plaque and a silver tray. Throughout his career, Hemingway taught at Pendleton, Terrell's Bay, and Marlboro County High Schools and collected various other awards including NFA State Winner Livestock Judging and Outstanding

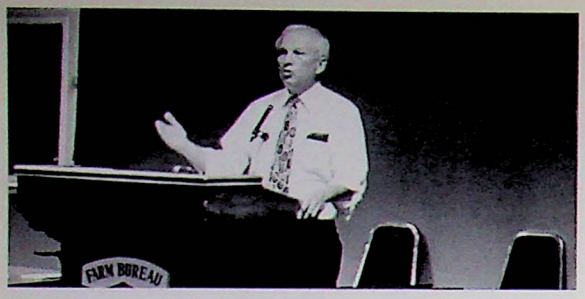
McKever Hemingway received the Distinguished Service Award for 40 years in agricultural education. To his right is Chris Edge, 1993-94 SCVATA President.

Chris Edge presents Jake Bookard with his award for over 30 years in teaching agricultural education.

Agriculture teachers from all over the state meet at the Farm Bureau Building in Cayce for their annual awards banquet.

The 1994-1995 SCVATA Officers Team: *(L-R) Hugh Bland, Greg Vaught, Barry Hawkins, Frank Stover, Jr., Jerry Pace, and James Ulmer.*

Guest speaker Dr. Charles Law speaks to the group about the future of agricultural education in the South.



Fred Raines (r) congratulates Al Gray after he is announced the 1994-95 SCVATA Teacher of the Year.

Glenn Stevens (l) receives the Distinguished Professional State Association Award from Chris Edge.

Recipients of the 10 Year Award pose with Chris Edge after the banquet. (L-R) Sam Gilliam, Barry Hawkins, Billy Keels, and Willie Capehart. (Not pictured - Ernest Manning)

20 Year Award winners: (L-R) Larry Greer, Joe Wilson, Joe Sutton, and Jerry Pace.

Teacher of the Year at Terrell's Bay High School.

Also presented during the evening were the 10 Year, 20 Year, and 30 Year service awards, the SCVATA Teacher of the Year, and the Distinguished Professional Award. In addition, two of the more unique awards went to Joe Wilson of Aiken High School and Michael Haynes of Manning. Joe Wilson won the Ideas Unlimited award for the most creative project publicizing the FFA. Wilson's chapter planted a bed of rye-grass that grew to spell the words "Aiken High FFA". Michael Haynes was then announced as the winner of the Diversified Fundraising Award for his chapter's outstanding fundraising efforts.

Finally, receiving the 30-Minute Award for writing and publishing articles or other works related to their field that carried across state lines were Dr. Charles Law, Dr. Lloyd Blanton, and Paul Jones. Willie Capehart then announced the Beginning Teachers, and the installation of new SCVATA officers followed. Your 1994-95 SCVATA Officers are as follows: Greg Vaught, President; Barry Hawkins, District I Vice-President; Frank Stover, Jr., District II Vice-President; Jerry Pace, District III Vice-President; James Ulmer, District IV Vice-President; and Hugh Bland, President-Elect.

1994 SCVATA Awards

10 Year Award
Willie Capehart
Sam Gilliam
Barry Hawkins
Billy Keels
Ernest Manning

20 Year Award
Larry Greer
Jerry Pace
Joe Sutton
Joe Wilson

30 Year Award
Jake Bookard

40 Year Award
McKever Hemingway

Ideas Unlimited Contest
Joe Wilson

Diversified Fundraising Contest
Michael Haynes

SCVATA Teacher of the Year
Al Gray

Distinguished Professional Award
Glenn Stevens

Beginning Teachers
Melina Dobbins
Dr. Connie Price

1994-1995 SCVATA Officers
Greg Vaught,
President
Barry Hawkins,
District I Vice-President
Frank Stover, Jr.,
District II Vice-President
Jerry Pace,
District III Vice-President
James Ulmer,
District IV Vice-President
Hugh Bland,
President-Elect

Challenges Before The FFA Alumni This Year

FFA Alumni begin mapping out plans for the coming year at the Alumni Convention held at Clemson in June.

The S.C. FFA Alumni is a fledgling organization at this point. It has the potential of becoming a majestic organization, but that won't be possible unless all of us put our shoulders to the task of making it happen. We have a real challenge before us this year.

First, we have the challenge of meeting the needs of the local FFA and agricultural programs. This is going to mean the development of **local affiliates.** The local affiliates are the ones that get to the heart of making the local program catch the eye of your community. It only takes ten members to start an affiliate. Certainly you can have as many as you want, but just imagine what ten dedicated alumni members could do to help the local program.

Secondly, we have the challenge of membership. If 100 agricultural programs in the state each had ten members, that would mean **1000 state members.** Frankly, this state should have several thousand members. Do you realize what that would mean? It would mean:

1. Two automatic scholarships that we could award to the FFA Washington Conference Program.
2. An operating budget of approximately $4000 for your state organization.
3. Such a budget would help us get started with the charge the membership gave us at the annual convention to start a beginning teacher workshop program.
4. Members throughout the state we could call upon as needed to support the overall program of agricultural education in this state.
5. One thousand members to promote the program.

Our third challenge is to **establish a financial base** for the program to be effective. Membership dues are part of this picture. We need to enlist members. A couple of challenges are enclosed with this newsletter. If every member would try to recruit other members, the membership aspects would soon fall into place. Remember, anyone interested in the promotion of agricultural education is a potential member. Past FFA membership is great, but not essential.

We need to start establishing some scholarships, fellowships, and workshops; and maybe even a foundation should be even a foundation should be considered. This is going to take a real effort on our part. There are several things that could start right now.

1. We are going to be calling on **each district** to start with some kind of a fundraiser this year. This may be something like raffling off a quilt someone is willing to donate, holding a regional auction of donated items, a barbecue, a golf day, or some other event that will raise funds to get our organization moving.
2. Perhaps you, or someone you know, would be interested in helping by making a **tax deductible contribution** for some of the above.
3. Perhaps you, or someone you

know, have the knowledge and wherewith-all to get a foundation started. Sooner or later, one will be needed. The current FFA Foundation, Inc., is limited to sponsoring only student activities. There is much more to the total agricultural education program. There are young farmers, teacher preparation, teacher in-service education, introduction of new activities in agriculture and improving the whole statewide agricultural education effort. Help in any of these areas would be most appreciated and beneficial to the program.

Folks, **don't you get tired of seeing agricultural education being shoved further and further to the back of the list?** Without the agriculture we have, this state and nation would be in a bad situation. There isn't a program in the schools that does as good a job in preparing young people for life as does agriculture and the FFA. Let's get behind them!

IT'S FFA ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP TIME AGAIN!

The calendar goes around real fast, doesn't it? September is not far off. There are two special membership enlistment activities that you need to be aware of:

1. **The Legion of Merit Citation.** This is open to any alumni or FFA member. An entry sheet that is self-explanatory can be found in the FFA Alumni Manual. Ask your agricultural teacher to make a copy for you and start enlisting members. Do not send them directly to Alexandria, VA as our S.C. office will not have a record of such memberships for several months. The entry blank and dues must be sent to the following address **by Sept. 15.** The dues are **$11** for annual members and **$150** for life members.

Send to: SC FFA Alumni
Arthur Jensen, Exec. Sec./Treas.
102 Daleview Circle
Clemson, SC 29631

2. **The Blazer Contest.** The national FFA Alumni will award a blazer (jacket) to the alumni member who enlists the most new members, providing the state has increased its membership by 100 members. Now, since our goal is at least 1000, someone in this state should win that blazer. It will be awarded at the National FFA Alumni Convention in Kansas City.

a. Use the Legion of Merit Citation form. Attach additional sheets to it as needed.

b. Dues and membership forms must be sent to the same address as above **by Sept. 15** so that I may get them to national on time.

Regular dues (not applicable to the above two activities) from the affiliates need to be sent to me by **Sept. 30.** However, it helps out tremendously if we receive them early, so please don't put it off. Send them in right away and please send them only to the address listed above. (If they are sent elsewhere, anything can happen!) Dues are:

Annual, State, and National	**$ 11**
Life Memberships	**$ 150**

Remember, in the event of death, the life memberships provide a memorial scholarship equal to the amount of dues paid to the chapter or affiliate you so designate. They also return $ 2 to the state association each year.

In paying dues, please be sure to provide name, address, city, state and zip code information.

New in '94!

Be on the lookout for the premier issue of the new South Carolina FFA newsletter!

Created by your state officers team for you, the newsletter will highlight chapter news and events (and much more) on a monthly basis to keep you in touch with what's going on in other chapters around the state! All you have to do is send in your information. And to make that even easier for you, a representative has been chosen in each district to compile the news and forward it to the newsletter editor, Grier Sandifer.

The representatives for each district are:

District I
Shane Elrod
205 Cherry Street
Belton, SC 29627
(803) 338-9685

District II
Robert McManus
3505 Hillsprings Rd.
Lexington, SC 29072
(803) 356-1365

District III
Lance Powers
1916 Hollybush Rd.
Timmonsville, SC 29161
(803) 346-3324

District IV
Frederick Young
P.O. Box 723
Holly Hill, SC 29059
(803) 534-9595

Please contact them with any announcements or other items that you would like to put in the newsletter. Due out at the first of each month, the deadline for items for each issue has been set at the 15th of each preceding month.

Also, as of yet this newsletter has not been named, so if you have any suggestions, please forward those as well. *The person or chapter that suggests the winning name will be highlighted in the premier issue!* So, get started - your representatives are waiting to hear from you!

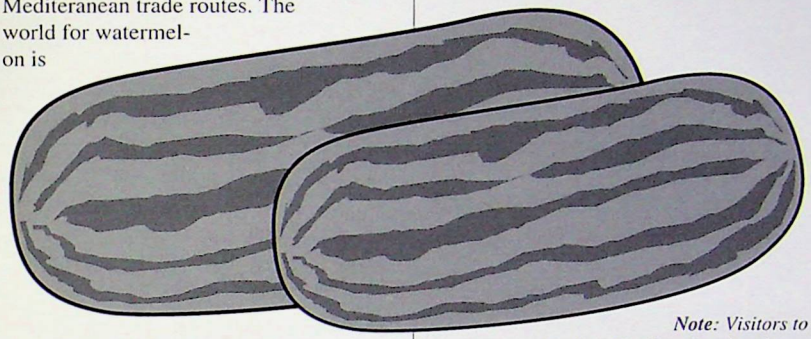
Citrulus Lanatus
(Otherwise known as watermelon!)

It's one of the oldest fruits known to man, It's a world favorite. It's grown on five continents. But, it's a fruit with a secret. It's watermelon, and it's *really* a vegetable–cousin to a cucumber and kin to a gourd.

Historians first grew in the middle of the Kalahari Desert. They were a source of water for thirsty traders, who began to sell the seeds in cities along the ancient Mediteranean trade routes. The world for watermelon is included in the Sanskrit language, and melons were depicted by early Egyptian artists, indicating that they have been under cultivation for more than 4,000 years.

Small watermelons were first cultivated in the United States in the early 1600's. Though not as sweet as today's melons, the colonists used every part: the rind was pickled; the juice was drunk; the seeds were toasted for snacks, and flesh was eaten with fervor.

Thanks to years of watermelon research and development, todays melons are at least twice as sweet and three times the size; 20-25 pounds on average. More than 200 varieties of watermelons are grown in 44 states.



Note: Visitors to Yandle's Produce Stand at the State Farmer's Market in Columbia may have recently seen the 138 pound watermelon grown by E.C. "Skippy" DeLoach, a friend of Luke Yandle's! Though not for sale, the melon attracted a great deal of attention and even brought a $25.00 offer from one customer. Just how many people do you think a melon like that would feed, anyway?

Please Write!

Your newly elected State Officers were chosen to serve your needs as representatives of the South Carolina Association of FFA. Feel free to contact them at the following addresses with program ideas, comments, suggestions, or invitations to chapter activities. They're eager to hear from you!

John Helms, President
South Carolina FFA
P.O. Box 116
McBee, SC 29101

Stoney Oswald, Secretary
South Carolina FFA
1157 Selvern Road
Wagener, SC 29164

Carrie Raines, Vice-President
South Carolina FFA
Rt. 3, Box 31
Abbeville, SC 29620

Russell Hawkins, Vice-President
South Carolina FFA
P.O. Box 1253
Holly Hill, SC 29059

Grier Sandifer, Vice-President
South Carolina FFA
871 Sandifer Road
York, SC 29745

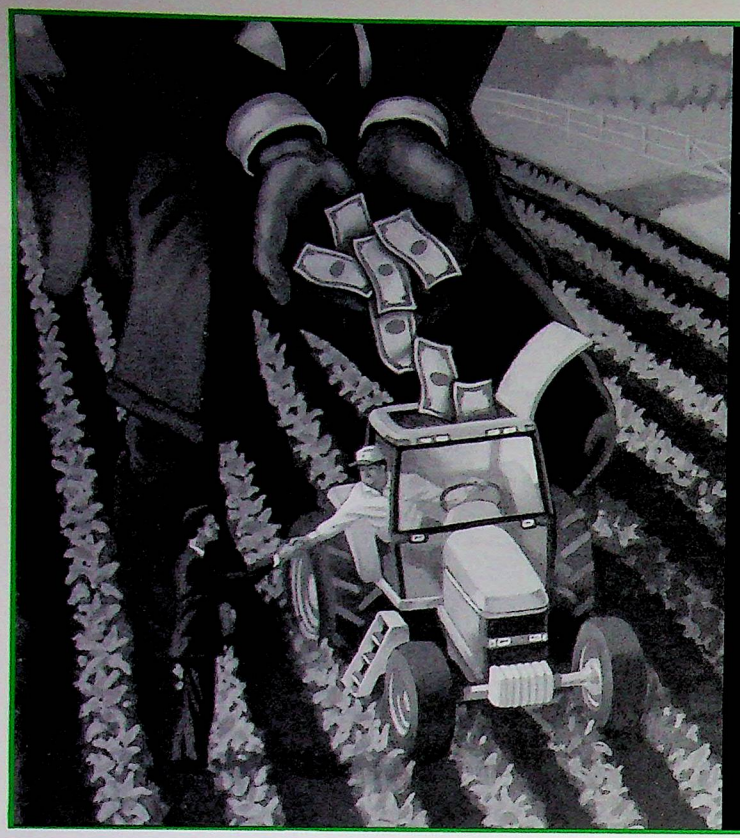
Chad Warren, Vice-President
South Carolina FFA
349 Porth Circle
Lexington, SC 29072

Career Opportunities in Agriscience and Ag Technology- Scientists, Engineers & Related Professionals

Agriscience, with its related occupations of engineering, biochemistry genetics and physiology, is the fastest growing area within the agricultural industry. This is agriculture's cutting edge. If you are interested in applying scientific principles to practical situations, this may be the career area for you.

Agricultural Engineer
Animal Scientist
Biochemist
Cell Biologist
Entomologist
Environmental Scientist
Food Engineer
Food Scientist
Forest Scientist
Geneticist
Landscape Architect
Microbiologist
Molecular Biologist
Natural Resources Scientist
Nutritionist
Paravet/Animal Health Technician
Pathologist
Physiologist
Plant Scientist
Quality Assurance Specialist
Rangeland Scientist
Research Technician
Resource Economist
Soil Scientist
Statistician
Toxicologist
Veterinarian
Waste Management Specialist
Water Quality Specialist
Weed Specialist

*Excerpt from ***American Careers***, Fall 1992 - Special Reprint for National FFA



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Dedicated to the Business of Agriculture

Edisto Farm Credit
P.O. Box 470
Orangeburg, SC
29116
1-800-868-6546
(803)534-8122

Palmetto Farm Credit
P.O. Box 4966
Spartanburg, SC
29305
1-800-462-5819
(803)585-6234

Pee Dee Farm Credit
P.O. Box 13209
Florence, SC
29504
1-800-741-7332
(803)662-1527

READY FOR THE 90s

FARM BUREAU

Ever since its beginning in 1944, South Carolina Farm Bureau has been speaking out for farmers as their Voice of Agriculture.

As a new generation of farmers face the challenges of the 90s and beyond, Farm Bureau will continue to meet the needs of its members—whether it be lobbying for equitable legislation, helping to market commodities more effectively, telling the farmers' story, or by providing a full range of insurance services to meet the particular needs of farm families.

A Proud Tradition — An Even Brighter Future!